

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of suppressing a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection in an individual who is at risk of being exposed to RSV, comprising administering a composition to the respiratory tract of said individual by local administration, said composition comprising a polynucleotide comprising an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) to said individual, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-T,C,G-3', wherein the polynucleotide is greater than 6 and less than about ~~200~~ 50 nucleotides in length, wherein RSV antigen, an immunostimulatory cytokine, and an adjuvant are not administered in conjunction with administration of said composition, wherein the individual is a human, wherein said composition is administered between 3 days and 14 days before exposure to RSV, and wherein said ~~composition~~ polynucleotide is administered in an amount sufficient to ~~suppress an RSV infection~~ reduce RSV titer.

Claim 2 (Canceled): The method of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-T, C, G-3'.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-purine, purine, C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3'.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the ISS comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of 5'-AACGTTTCG-3' and 5'-GACGTTTCG-3'.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-TGACTGTGAACGTTTCGAGATGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein administration is to a lung.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein administration is to the nasal passages.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the suppression comprises a reduction of RSV titer in a biological sample from said individual.

Claims 11-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises a ISS-containing polynucleotide and a pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient and wherein said composition excludes immunoregulatory agents and immunostimulatory cytokines.

Claim 18 (canceled): The method of claim 1 wherein suppression of RSV infection is measured by a reduction of viral titer of RSV.